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Testimonials

IN FAVOUR OF

JAMES SETH, M. A., EDIN.

*Munro Professor of Metaphysics and Ethics in Dalhousie College
and University, Halifax, N. S.; Formerly Assistant to the
Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University
of Edinburgh,*

CANDIDATE FOR THE CHAIR OF

LOGIC AND METAPHYSICS

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.



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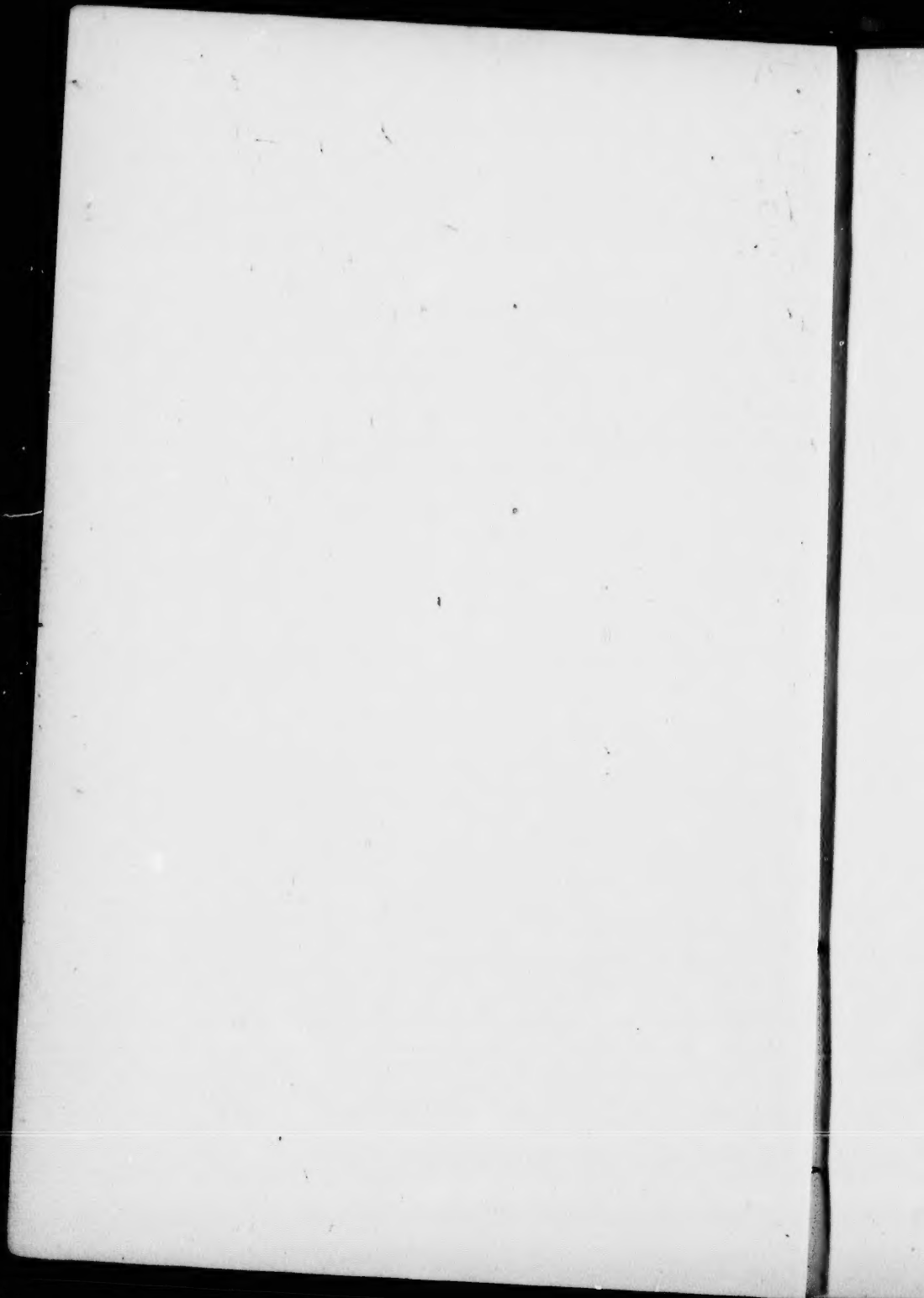
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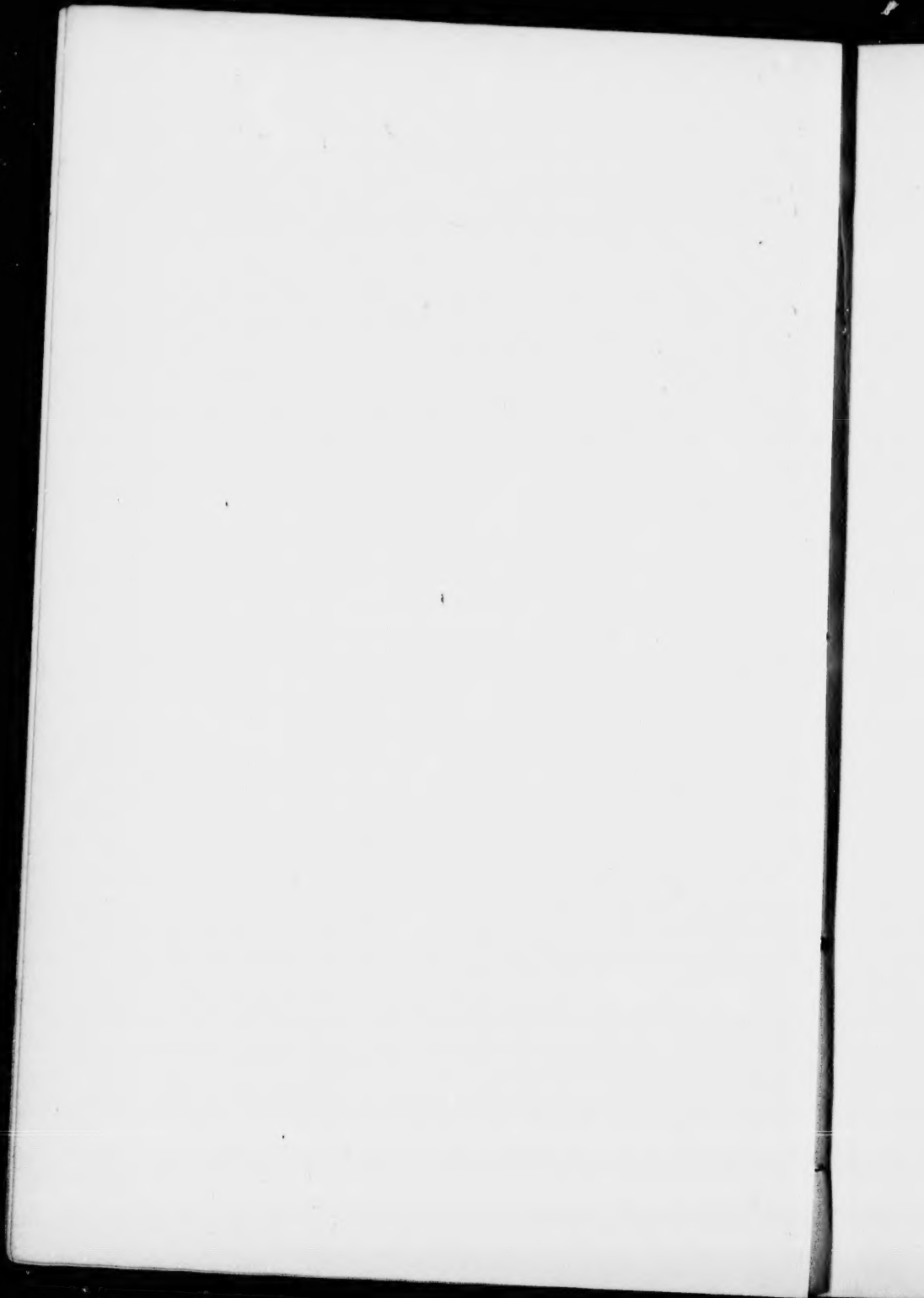
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TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

FOR

The Province of Ontario.

SIR,

I BEG respectfully to offer myself as a candidate for the Chair of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Toronto.

I was born at Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1860. On completing my school course at George Watson's College in that city, I matriculated, in 1876, in the University of Edinburgh; where, for the sake of the special advantages offered in Mental Philosophy, I supplemented the usual curriculum of undergraduate study by a special course in that department, obtaining the Degree of Master of Arts, with First Class Honours in Philosophy, in April, 1881.

After graduation, I continued my academic studies in Germany, where I spent two semesters, at the Universities of Leipsig and Jena respectively.

During my undergraduate course at Edinburgh University, I gained, among other honours, the First Medal and Prize in the Class of Moral Philosophy, a Medal for the special study of Kant, and the First Medal and Bruce of Grangehill and Falkland's Prize in the Advanced Class of Metaphysics. After graduation I obtained, in December 1881, the J. E. Baxter Scholarship in Philosophy, open to graduates of the University of Edinburgh, of not more than three years' standing; and, in the following autumn, the Ferguson Scholarship in Philosophy, open to graduates of all the Scottish Universities, of not more than two years' standing.

In 1883, I was appointed Assistant to Dr. Campbell Fraser, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Edinburgh,—a position which I held for two years. It was my duty, in this capacity, to conduct large classes in the study of Logic, as well as to lecture on Greek and German Philosophy to senior students looking forward to graduation with Honours. In the summer session of 1885, I organized and conducted independent classes (under the auspices of the University Senate) in Logic and Metaphysics. During my Assistantship, I had also much experience as an Examiner, in connection not only with the large philosophical classes within the University, but with the Local Examination scheme, of whose Board of Examiners I was a member.

In the autumn of 1881, I entered the New College, Edinburgh, the Theological Hall of the Free Church of Scotland, where I completed 'the regular four years' course preparatory to the ministry of that Church, of which I am a licentiate.

At the close of my Theological Course, in 1886, I was appointed, in succession to Dr. Schurman, now of Cornell University, to the Chair of Metaphysics and Ethics in this University, which I have occupied during the past three years, and in which I have had considerable additional experience as a teacher of Philosophy.

Besides assisting Professor Calderwood in the preparation of the last edition, thoroughly revised and largely re-written, of Fleming's *Vocabulary of Philosophy*, for which I wrote several original articles, I have contributed to *Mind* occasional papers on philosophical subjects. The latest of these is an article on the "Evolution of Morality," of which, with my Inaugural Lecture at Dalhousie College, I enclose a copy for your perusal.

In support of my present application, I beg to submit for your consideration the following Testimonials bearing on my qualifications for the Professorship now vacant in

the University of Toronto. Should I have the honour to be appointed, I would strive faithfully to discharge, to the best of my ability, its responsible and important duties.

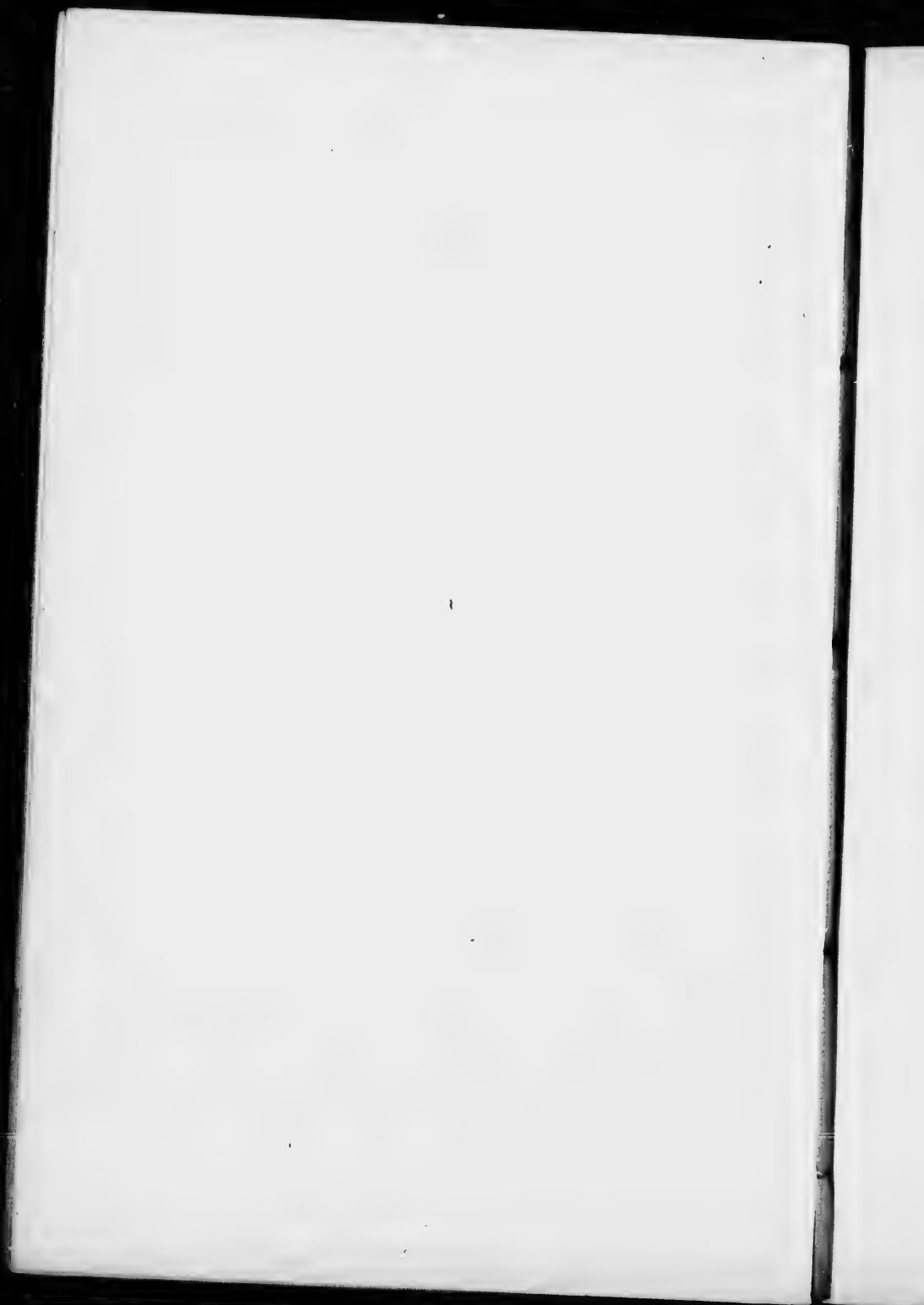
I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES SETH.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY, }
 HALIFAX, N. S., *July 23rd, 1889.* }



TESTIMONIALS.

I.

*From A. CAMPBELL FRASER, D.C.L., Oxon., LL.D., Glasg.,
Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, and Dean of the Faculty
of Arts, in the University of Edinburgh; Editor of Berkeley's
Works for the Clarendon Press, &c.*

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,
1st July, 1889.

When Professor James Seth left this country for the Chair which he now occupies in Halifax, he had already taken the foremost place in Philosophy among those of his own age in Scotland. As a student in this University he had gained the highest distinctions, and at the close of his curriculum, in April 1881, he received the Degree of Master of Arts with Honours of the First Class in Philosophy. In due course thereafter, he obtained the Ferguson Scholarship—the highest philosophical honour of the kind in the Scottish Universities, while he added to his academical experience by residence during two summers at the Universities of Leipsic and Jena.

For several years Mr. Seth was my valued Assistant, in succession to his brother, who is now Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of St. Andrews. In this office he taught Logic and Psychology to large classes, besides reading Metaphysics and History of Philosophy with the more advanced—in all which he secured in a remarkable degree the affection and respect of all concerned.

The confidence with which I recommended Mr. Seth to the authorities of Dalhousie College, more than two

years ago, is more than confirmed by what he has done since. His published writings in Philosophy have already made his name favourably known in this country and abroad; while the many reports which have reached me all agree that he has achieved the expected success in Halifax.

Accordingly I now cordially and confidently recommend Professor Seth to the patrons of the vacant Chair of Metaphysics and Ethics at Toronto as one who is able signally to advance the interests of the University, as a teacher and as an administrator too; while, by authorship and otherwise, I believe that he will promote Philosophy in America with candour, comprehensive wisdom, and insight, as well as in constant sympathy with the chief end of man.

A. CAMPBELL FRASER, D.C.L., LL.D.,

*Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, and Dean of the Faculty of Arts,
in the University of Edinburgh.*

II.

From the REV. HENRY CALDERWOOD, LL.D., Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh; Author of "The Philosophy of the Infinite," "The Relations of Mind and Brain," "Hand-book of Moral Philosophy," &c.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,
July 2nd, 1889.

Professor James Seth, M. A., Dalhousie College, Nova Scotia, informs me that he is a candidate for the Chair of Mental Philosophy in the University of Toronto, vacant by the lamented death of Professor Young.

I am able to give very strong testimony as to the qualifications of Professor Seth for the duties of the Chair.

His career at this University was one of great distinction, showing metaphysical power of a high order.

Not only did he pass his M. A. Degree with First Class Honours, but the mark he had made was such, that he was selected by my colleague, Professor Fraser, as his Assistant. He did admirable work in the management of the Tutorial teaching for the large class of Logic and Metaphysics.

When, in 1886, I undertook the preparation of a new edition of Fleming's *Vocabulary of Philosophy*, I selected him with full confidence for the duties of Assistant Editor; and these he discharged with great skill, showing a wide range of knowledge, and supplying considerable contributions to the work.

His recent article on "Evolution of Morality," which appeared in *Mind* in the beginning of the present year, is an admirable example of his acuteness in criticism and metaphysical power, as well as of his deep sympathy with ethical questions.

I feel sure that Professor Seth will prove himself a successful teacher, stimulating the interest and rousing the powers of his students.

H. CALDERWOOD,
Mor. Phil. Prof.

III.

From JAMES HUTCHISON STIRLING, LL. D., Gifford Lecturer on Natural Theology in the University of Edinburgh, and Foreign Member of the Philosophical Society of Berlin; Author of "The Secret of Hegel," "Text Book to Kant," "The Philosophy of Law," &c.

(GIVEN ON A FORMER OCCASION.)

EDINBURGH,

March 2nd, 1886.

I have been long and intimately acquainted with Mr. James Seth. Morally and intellectually, I do not know at this moment a more deserving young man. His testimonials will show the completeness of his education and training, and I have sufficiently associated with him to be able to testify to the success of both. From his progress in his studies, especially philosophical, I have a perfect conviction that he will make a most successful teacher as a Professor of Philosophy, ethical or other, in any University. I know that the members of the Philosophical Society in the University here are accustomed to discuss themes which are perfectly in advance, and that, too, in respect of all the schools that have name and place at present; and I know that, among these members, Mr. Seth is one of the most active, authoritative, and distinguished. Mr. Seth is one of the most sincere, candid, and amiable of human beings. He will promote good will wherever he may be, and will be an honour to any institution.

J. H. STIRLING.

(FROM THE SAME.)

EDINBURGH,

June 27th, 1889.

MY DEAR PROFESSOR SETH,

I am very glad to learn that you are advancing your standard, and very willing to help the forward march. I know not, however, that I can add anything to my former testimonial to your merits, unless in what regards time. If three years add considerably to the value of good wine, I feel sure that they must add infinitely more considerably, in respect of maturity, of experience in teaching, of thought in one's own mind, to the value and usefulness of a Professor at a University, especially in the department of Philosophy.

With all good wishes, I am

Yours most faithfully,

J. H. STIRLING

IV.

From S. S. LAURIE, LL.D., Professor of the Theory, History and Practice of Education in the University of Edinburgh; Author of "Metaphysic Nova et Vetusta," "Ethica, or the Ethics of Reason, &c."

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,
26th June, 1889.

I ventured very strongly to recommend Professor James Seth for the post which he now holds, and I think the recommendation which I then gave will be found to be fully justified by the results. It is with increased confidence that I now submit his name to the electors in the important University of Toronto. Mr. Seth has a distinctly marked philosophical genius, and will certainly add to the reputation of any University with which he may be connected. To his natural aptitude for philosophical pursuits, he adds great industry in the study of the thought of others. A recent article by him in *Mind* shows this, and exhibits vigour of mind and a power of clear reasoning and lucid exposition.

In Edinburgh University, Mr. Seth's work was highly valued. He exhibited an earnestness of nature and of purpose which gained for him universal esteem, and explains the independence of mind which his more recent writing reveals. I am certain that he would be an important accession to the University staff of Toronto.

S. S. LAURIE.

V.

From G. CROOM ROBERTSON, LL.D., *Grote Professor of Philosophy of Mind and Logic in University College, London; Editor of "Mind, A Quarterly Journal of Psychology and Philosophy."*

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON,
23th June, 1889.

I do not know of any one of his years whose qualifications appear to be so marked as those of Prof. James Seth for the Chair of Metaphysics and Ethics in the University of Toronto; and I venture to say this from an acquaintance (as editor of *Mind*) with most of the rising philosophical lights in both England and America.

The electors have means of learning Mr. Seth's record as a philosophical teacher in Dalhousie College. I can speak only of his contributions to *Mind*; but these happen to have been just metaphysical and ethical. His work in both kinds seems to me of excellent quality; and I know that his recent article on "The Evolution of Morality" has commanded special attention. Mr. Seth is not only a man of native ability, but has evidently fitted himself out with all the acquired knowledge necessary for taking an effective part in the philosophical movement of the present time. A distinguished career may (I think) be safely anticipated for him, wherever he may finally be called to work.

G. CROOM ROBERTSON,
Grote Professor of Philosophy of Mind and Logic.

VI.

From ROBERT ADAMSON, LL.D., *Professor of Logic in the Owens College, Victoria University, Manchester; Author of "The Philosophy of Kant," &c.*

(GIVEN ON A FORMER OCCASION.)

THE OWENS COLLEGE, MANCHESTER,
6th March, 1886.

Although, by reason of my residence in Manchester, I have not had personal knowledge of Mr. James Seth during or since the period of his studentship at Edinburgh University, yet I have been acquainted with the main features of his academic career and have observed them with much interest. It gave me sincere pleasure to note the direction of Mr. Seth's fine original ability towards philosophical study, and the successive proofs he gave of capacity for that subject. The place he took in the philosophical classes in Edinburgh, his excellent degree, and the high distinctions he has since won, furnish sufficient evidence that he has been well grounded, and that he has continued to devote his energies to preparation for genuine philosophical work. Of the students who gain distinction in the philosophical classes of a University, it is but a small proportion who afterwards, by inclination and ability, are led to take up philosophy as the serious business of life. From all that I gather, Mr. James Seth must undoubtedly be reckoned as belonging to that small class. He has the impulse and the desire to devote himself to Philosophy; he has taken full advantage, both in Scotland and in Germany, of the means of philosophical training; and already, in the position he has occupied as Assistant to Professor Fraser, he has made his influence felt, and has been recognized as a teacher zealous for his subject, competent to handle its problems, and withal of a kindly and sympathetic nature.

Time has not yet allowed of Mr. Seth's producing work on which a complete estimate of his abilities might be based, but he has given the most satisfactory grounds for the expectation that such work will in the future be forthcoming. It is not merely as wishing well to Mr. Seth, that I hope he may soon attain a position which will afford adequate opportunity for the development of his powers, but as wishing well to Philosophy. For I think him a man of great promise, and I doubt if an academic body, proceeding to the appointment of a Professor of Philosophy, could readily find any candidate with more complete equipment, better experience, or more satisfactory indications of future success.

ROBERT ADAMSON.

VII.

From WILLIAM R. BOURN, M. A., Edin. and Cantab., Professor of Logic and Philosophy in the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire; formerly Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Examiner in Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh; Author of "The Ethics of Naturalism."

UNIV. COLL. OF SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE,
CARDIFF, June 27th, 1889.

Having known Professor James Seth for many years I may be allowed to express my conviction of his eminent fitness for the Chair of Metaphysics and Ethics in the University of Toronto.

He passed with the highest distinction through the systematic training in Philosophy which Edinburgh University has to offer; by residence and study in Germany, he has rendered himself familiar with different methods of instruction and intellectual standpoints; and, both as Assistant to Professor Campbell Fraser, and subsequently in his work at Dalhousie College, he has had just that kind of experience which points to his fitness for the vacant Chair at Toronto.

Of Professor Seth's skill and success as a teacher, others will be able to give more direct evidence. I can only testify to the high terms in which I have always heard his teaching power spoken of. But any who have read his Introductory Lecture at Dalhousie College, or the papers which he has published from time to time in *Mind*, must have been struck both by the acuteness of his intellectual perceptions, and by the lucid form in which his thoughts are expressed. That he would perform the duties of the Professorship for which he is a candidate with thoroughness, zeal and success, I have no doubt; and believe that the University of Toronto would find in him, not only a highly efficient teacher, but also a man of good judgment and business capacity, whose assistance and advice in the whole work of the College could not fail to be of the highest value.

W. R. SORLEY.

VIII.

From LESLIE STEPHEN, LL.D., Author of "*The Science of Ethics*,"
 "*History of English Thought in the Eighteenth Century*," &c.

10th July, 1889.

I have read an article upon the 'Evolution of Morality,' by Prof. James Seth, published in *Mind*, No. 53. It contained (among more general discussions) some criticisms of my *Science of Ethics*. Prof. Seth differs very widely from me upon fundamental questions. I was, however, so much impressed by the ability of the article, as well as by its candour and courtesy, that I wrote to thank him for it; and I have now great pleasure in saying that, although he is otherwise unknown to me, I am quite convinced that he would be a thoroughly competent occupant of a Chair of ethical Philosophy.

LESLIE STEPHEN.

IX.

*From the REV. A. B. DAVIDSON, D.D., LL.D., Professor of Hebrew
and Old Testament Exegesis in the New College, Edinburgh;
Member of the Old Testament Revision Committee, &c.*

(GIVEN ON A FORMER OCCASION.)

NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH,
4th March, 1886.

Mr. James Seth, M.A., had a very distinguished career, especially in the department of Mental Philosophy, at the University, in which he subsequently held the appointment of Assistant to the Professor of Logic and Metaphysics for several seasons.

Mr. Seth's opportunities of distinguishing himself at the New College have chiefly been through the various Essays that have to be written during the course of study. His work in this department was remarkable, being distinguished not only by a highly finished literary style, but by a freshness and originality of thought very uncommon.

Mr. Seth's bent of mind is towards mental, or rather perhaps moral, questions. From his great ability and wide reading, and from the spirit of reverence and candour which he carries into all his studies, he is certain, with good opportunities, to do work of the highest and best kind in this department.

All who know Mr. Seth would contemplate with great regret his removal from this country and from the direct work of the Church; but they would have some consolation in the thought that he had found a sphere of work congenial to him, and one so nearly related to all that is high in Christian thought.

A. B. DAVIDSON.

X.

From ANDREW SETH, M.A., Edin., Professor of Logic, Rhetoric and Metaphysics in the University of St. Andrews, and Balfour Lecturer on Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh; Author of "Scottish Philosophy," "Hegelianism and Personality," &c.

UNIVERSITY, ST. ANDREWS,

July 11th, 1889.

It is not without diffidence that I yield to my brother's request that I should write something in support of his application for the philosophical Chair now vacant in Toronto University. I am aware that a testimonial from a brother to a brother may appear to many to carry no weight. I may, however, be permitted to express in a few words my conviction that he is eminently qualified for the position he now seeks—qualified alike by his thorough philosophical training, by the distinguished University career he has to show, by his excellent record as an academic teacher, and by his promise as a philosophical writer.

He is by temperament and choice a teacher. He has proved himself a successful professor. I can speak from personal knowledge and common report of his marked success in Edinburgh, where (like so many others who have afterwards become Professors of Philosophy) he served his academic apprenticeship as Assistant to Professor Campbell Fraser; and, through various trustworthy channels, similar accounts have reached me of his work as a Professor in Dalhousie College.

ANDREW SETH.

XI.

From the EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

(GIVEN ON A FORMER OCCASION.)

Mr. James Seth has for years been well known to the members of the Philosophical Society, not only by his brilliant attainments in philosophical scholarship, but also by the unique power and insight he has displayed in the investigation of metaphysical problems.

During his academic course he gained an unusually large number of the highest University honours, and crowned his career by winning the Ferguson Scholarship in an inter-university examination.

He has also had the honour of holding the appointment of Assistant to the Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, and he discharged the onerous and responsible duties of that office in a way which drew forth the highest admiration and esteem of junior and senior students alike.

In the Philosophical Society, he held successively the offices of Secretary and President; and, since his tenure of office, he has continued unceasingly to do everything in his power to increase the life and influence of that Society. As a consequence, his power has been especially felt in the Society, and he has long been regarded as the leader in its discussions. His contributions to its proceedings have been unusually rich and varied, revealing a philosophical and literary culture such as is rarely attained.

Mr. Seth has lately, at great sacrifice, given time and effort to co-operate with the Society in carrying on the studies of those who had left the classes which he conducted, and, judging from the sympathetic and effective manner in which he met the wants of such, it is certain that his success as a teacher would be nowhere more marked than in introducing students to the deeper problems of Philosophy.

JAMES LORRAIN SMITH, *President.*

WILLIAM CALDWELL, *Secretary.*

XII.

From J. G. SCHURMAN, M.A., Lond., D.Sc., Edin., Sage Professor of Philosophy in Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; formerly Examiner in Philosophy and Political Economy in the University of Toronto, and Munro Professor of Metaphysics and Ethics in Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, N. S.; Author of "Kantian Ethics and the Ethics of Evolution," and "The Ethical Import of Darwinism."

It was largely on my recommendation (since no one else in Canada was personally acquainted with him) that Mr. James Seth was brought from Edinburgh, in 1886, to fill the Chair of Metaphysics and Ethics in Dalhousie College, which I had resigned to go to Cornell University. I knew that Mr. Seth was not only of Scottish stock, but that he came of a family in which the national bent to Philosophy had already conspicuously manifested itself; that his philosophical education, both in Scotland and Germany, had been extensive and thorough; that when he measured himself, in competition for the Baxter and Ferguson Scholarships, against graduates, not only of Edinburgh, but of all the Scottish Universities, he was readily first; that he had filled, as Professor Fraser assured me in personal conversation, with eminent success the position of Assistant to the Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in Edinburgh University; that he had popular talents as a speaker and lecturer; and that, as a man, he possessed what seemed to me the essential qualifications of a teacher of Philosophy—tolerance, sympathy, fairness of judgment, breadth of view, a kindliness of nature inviting the confidence of pupils, a lofty reverence for all that is good, and an unswerving devotion to truth for truth's own sake.

That the high expectations formed at that time have been fully justified by Professor Seth's work in Dalhousie College, his colleagues will testify. I know, from reports of both students and professors, that he has inspired his pupils with a love of Philosophy, and won for himself a high reputation as a teacher and thinker. As a writer, too, he is already favourably known. His recent article on Evolutionary Morals in *Mind* is a fine specimen of just exposition and criticism, and of clear thinking expressed in an easy transparent style.

Professor Seth's achievements presage a life of fruitful and valuable service to Philosophy; and though I should much regret if Nova Scotia, which has witnessed its rich promise, should not also enjoy its mature fruition, I cannot refuse to testify to his eminent qualifications for the Chair of Philosophy in Toronto University, which, I am sure, he would fill with success, worthily maintaining the lustre shed upon it by the late lamented Professor Young.

July 16th, 1889.

J. G. SCHURMAN.

XIII.

*From the REV. D. MACRAE, D. D., St. John, N. B., Ex-Moderator
of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada;
and formerly Examiner in the University of New Brunswick.*

ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK,
July 22nd, 1889.

Of Mr. Seth's competency to fill the Chair of Logic and Metaphysics in any University, there can be but one opinion among those who enjoy the pleasure of acquaintanceship with that gentleman.

The brilliancy of his career at the University of Edinburgh, though known to me from other sources, is sufficiently attested by the certificates of the professors under whom his education was conducted. His early promise has been amply justified by his success in the work done by him, and the reputation he has won among the students of Dalhousie. His class has, in fact, become one of the chief attractions in that well-officered college, because Mr. Seth possesses the faculty, to a degree rarely equalled, of rendering his subject not less interesting than instructive.

While he has not, thus far, to my knowledge, entered largely into the field of authorship, in the way of publication, more than one essay from his pen has come under my notice. And in these he evinces the ability to convey his opinions—opinions characterised by sobriety and reverence—in a style marked by the utmost lucidity, enriched by the fruits of wide and thoughtful reading.

While I should regard Mr. Seth's withdrawal from his present position as a most serious loss to education in the Maritime Provinces, I have no hesitation in saying that he will prove himself an invaluable accession to the staff of any University which wishes to keep abreast of the age in the studies of Logic and Metaphysics.

D. MACRAE, D. D.

XIV.

*From DAVID ALLISON, M.A., LL.D., Superintendent of Education
for the Province of Nova Scotia; and formerly President of
Mount Allison College, Sackville, N. B.*

EDUCATION OFFICE, HALIFAX,
July 24th, 1889.

In my opinion Professor James Seth possesses eminent qualifications for such a Chair as that of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Toronto. The breadth and depth of his philosophical scholarship are sufficiently vouched for by the records of his educational career, a career that has been, practically, an uninterrupted course of special training for the Chair in question.

I have had frequent opportunity of examining notes of Professor Seth's lectures at Dalhousie, and have been struck with the fresh and stimulating manner in which he discusses the great problems of abstract thought, with the breadth of the horizon within which the history of systems is surveyed, and the discriminating care taken to shed a clear light on the ultimate bases of philosophy.

My position has brought me into association with some of the brightest of recent Dalhousie graduates. I find that the impression produced and left on their minds by Professor Seth is that which every true teacher of youth must covet,—the image of an honest man, of a sincere lover of truth, of an efficient guide and helper amid intellectual difficulties.

DAVID ALLISON,
Superintendent of Education.

XV.

From the REV. JOHN CURRIE, D. D., Professor of Hebrew and Biblical Literature in the Presbyterian College, Halifax, N. S.

I have not had opportunity to hear any of Prof. Seth's class lectures, and by personal observation to become acquainted with his methods of teaching; but I have frequently heard his students and occasional hearers speak of him with high praise. They have described his lectures as clear and profound, his class-room drill as stimulating and thorough, and his manner as courteous and attractive. From personal intercourse with Prof. Seth, I think that he is fully entitled to this estimate. His Inaugural Address, which I had the privilege of hearing, was a rich treat to those interested in mental science, and may be taken as a fair specimen of what he can do in the Professor's Chair. During his brief stay in Halifax, his kindly disposition has secured for him many warm friends. While personally I should very much regret Prof. Seth's removal from this city, I cannot refrain from expressing the conviction that, should he be appointed to the Chair of Logic and Metaphysics in Toronto University, he will fill it with marked ability.

JOHN CURRIE, D. D.,
*Professor of Hebrew and Biblical Literature in the
Presbyterian College, Halifax, N. S.*

XVI.

*From the REV. ALLAN POLLOK, D. D., Professor of Church History
in the Presbyterian College, Halifax, N. S.*

11th July, 1889.

Though I am very sorry indeed that Professor Seth has any thought of leaving Dalhousie University and the community of Halifax, I cannot refuse to bear testimony to the great value of his services to Dalhousie University, so far as these can be known to me as an outsider. I have had the opportunity of testing, in some degree, the effect of his teaching in the case of our theological students, to whom Logic and Metaphysics are of such importance; and I have been hoping that, as his influence was more and more felt, our Theological College would derive increasing benefit from his department of college work. In addition to much general preparation for his duties, by reason of habits of thought and previous studies, the quality which he has developed in his work is *thoroughness*, which has been combined with faithfulness, gentleness and modesty. These qualities have been fully appreciated by the students, by whom Professor Seth is both loved and respected. I may add that when I have been privileged to hear him lecture, he combined a comprehensive view of the subject in its relation to other subjects, as well as in its own nature, combined with accuracy and finish in execution.

Professor Seth has been of great use to us from the eminently Christian tone and tendency of his teaching and labours. On all occasions he has been ready to assist in extending the influence, and improving the quality of Chris-

tian culture, both within and without the college. Wherever the teaching of the Bible has been attempted, or courses of lectures have been instituted for the promotion of literature or religion, he has cordially given his valuable aid—often at much inconvenience to himself. In these and such ways, he has acquired for himself an important place both in our University and in the community.

ALLAN POLLOK,

Prof. Ch. Hist., Pres. Coll., Halifax.

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XVII.

From the REV. R. F. BURNS, D. D., Chairman of the Board of Management of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, N. S.; and Ex-Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

SEA VIEW, KENT STREET, HALIFAX, N. S.,
20th July, 1889.

Professor James Seth, M. A., (Edin.), came to Halifax about three years ago, the unanimous and cordial choice of the Governors of Dalhousie University, to fill the Chair vacated by the removal of Dr. J. G. Schurman to Cornell.

His certificates, from eminent experts in his special department, bear ample testimony as to his character and qualifications.

During the three sessions he has completed as Professor of Metaphysics and Ethics at Dalhousie, he has proved a most conscientious and painstaking expounder of those high themes with which he has had to deal, showing a thorough aptitude for philosophical research, and much teaching power. He has enlisted the hearty sympathy and intelligent interest of his students, and won the confidence and regard of his fellow-professors and the community generally.

To high scholarship and advanced culture, secured during an extensive and successful academic career, Prof. Seth adds a large experience, obtained as an instructor in the University of Edinburgh, as well as here.

Should he prove successful in his present application, his removal from amongst us will be a source of general regret, and create a blank which it will be hard to supply.

R. F. BURNS, D. D.,

Chairman of the Board of the Presbyterian College, Halifax.

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XVIII.

*From the REV. E. M. SAUNDERS, M. A., D. D., Fellow of the Senate
of Acadia College, Wolfville, N. S.*

HALIFAX, N. S.,
July 19th, 1889.

This is to certify that, in my opinion, Professor James Seth is well qualified for the Chair of Logic and Metaphysics in Toronto University.

Just before Mr. Seth was appointed to the Professorship he now holds in Dalhousie College, the Rev. Dr. Blaikie, Professor of Apologetics and Pastoral Theology in the New College, Edinburgh, in a private letter to me, said that the credentials sent to the Governors of Dalhousie College by Mr. Seth, gave but a moderate estimate of his real worth, ability and scholarship.

His work in Halifax has justified this interpretation of his testimonials. I have, therefore, no hesitation in recommending Professor Seth as well qualified for the Chair in Toronto University, for which he is an applicant.

E. M. SAUNDERS, M. A., D. D.

XIX.

From the REV. JOHN FORREST, D. D., President, and Munro Professor of History and Political Economy in Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, N. S.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY,
HALIFAX, N. S., July 15th, 1889.

Mr. James Seth has occupied the Chair of Metaphysics and Ethics in this University for the past three years. He came to us from Edinburgh, highly recommended by Professors Fraser, Calderwood, and others; and his work here has fully justified the very flattering certificates which he brought. Professor Seth has proved himself to be a very successful teacher. He has won the highest respect and confidence of the students, and has succeeded in inspiring them with a genuine love for his subject. He has proved to the satisfaction of every one acquainted with his work, that he is not only master of his own subject, but that he possesses, in no ordinary degree, the power of imparting instruction to others. His quiet gentlemanly bearing, and manly Christian character have won the esteem of all; and his departure from Dalhousie would be a matter of sincere regret to myself and to all connected with the University.

JOHN FORREST,
President Dal. Coll. and University.

XX.

From the REV. WILLIAM LYALL, LL. D., McGill, F. R. S. C., Professor of Logic and Psychology in Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, N. S.; Author of "The Intellect, the Emotions, and the Moral Nature."

Professor Seth has been my colleague during the last three years in Dalhousie College, and not only my colleague, but Professor of a cognate subject with my own. I have therefore had the amplest opportunity of estimating his philosophical abilities and acquirements. These I consider of a very high order; and he has the merit and distinction that while he studied in Germany, the fountain-head, as some think, of philosophical opinion, he has not been carried away by German Absolutism, or entangled in the meshes of such thinkers as Fichte, Schelling or Hegel. It is not all his philosophy to affect their nomenclature, and manipulate their ideas on the chequer-board of philosophical speculation. He does not simulate a philosophic profundity by a philosophic obscurantism. He thinks intelligibly, and expresses himself intelligibly. His style, when he gives expression to his thoughts, is of very great merit—clear, incisive and idiomatic English. Professor Seth is thoroughly conversant with the different systems of thought, from the earliest period of Greek speculation to the present time. His expositions of these, I believe, have been highly appreciated by his students. I do not think it out of place, in a testimonial like this, to say that Professor Seth is a gentleman of amiable character, and refined and cultured manners.

W. LYALL, LL.D.,
*Professor of Logic and Psychology,
 Dalhousie College, Halifax.*

XXI.

*From W. J. ALEXANDER, B. A., Lond., PH. D., Johns Hopkins,
Professor-elect of English in University College, Toronto;
and formerly Munro Professor of English Language and Literature
in Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, N. S.*

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY,
HALIFAX, N. S., June 26th, 1889.

Three years, during which we have been fellow-professors in this University and on terms of close intimacy, have given me abundant opportunity of forming an opinion of Mr. Seth's success as a teacher, as well as of his ability and character.

It is Mr. Seth's good fortune to possess in a high measure the power of awakening the interest of his students, of leading them to think for themselves, and of imparting to them some of his own enthusiasm for the department of study to which he has devoted himself. In the class, besides the ordinary methods of instruction through lectures and examination, Mr. Seth has been very successful in the difficult task of stimulating inquiry and discussion among the students themselves. Their satisfaction with the manner in which he has conducted their studies, their testimony to the interest in philosophical pursuits which he has kindled among them, their unusually kindly and cordial feeling towards him,—have all, on several occasions and through different channels, forced themselves on my notice.

Apart from discharging the various duties pertaining to his position (in which I have never known any one more conscientious), Mr. Seth has always been ready to sacrifice

time and energy, where opportunities of furthering the interests of the students offered themselves; and, from his first arrival in Halifax, he has exhibited a hearty and practical interest in the general prosperity of the University.

Mr. Seth is a man of genuine culture and breadth of mind, master of a remarkably attractive English style, and an easy and graceful speaker. His general character is such as to win, in an unusual degree, not merely the respect, but also the sincere regard of his colleagues, and of others with whom he may be associated.

W. J. ALEXANDER.

Johns Hopkins,
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XXII.

*From J. G. MACGREGOR, M.A., D.Sc., Edin., F.R.S.S.E. & C.,
Munro Professor of Physics, and Secretary of the Faculty of
Arts, in Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, N. S.*

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE, HALIFAX, N. S.,
July 20th, 1889.

It is with much pleasure, though with a foreboding of evil to come to the college with which we are both connected at present, that I bear witness to the fitness of my colleague, Prof. James Seth, for the Chair of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Toronto, for which I understand he is a candidate.

While I am incapable of expressing an opinion as to Prof. Seth's knowledge of his subject or as to the value of his contributions to philosophical criticism, I may be allowed to state that, in the many conversations I have had with him on philosophical subjects, I have been much impressed not only with the accuracy and availability of his philosophical knowledge, but also, and far more, because of its greater rarity, with the wide extent of his scientific interest. Mr. Seth is not one of the metaphysicians who hold that an account of the universe may be woven out of one's own imagination. But, holding Philosophy to be the science of the sciences, he has studied to obtain an accurate knowledge of scientific generalisations,—an important part, at least, of the raw material of Metaphysics; and, in all cases in which I consider myself capable of judging, he has done so with marked success.

I can bear witness also to Mr. Seth's possession of that enthusiasm for his subject which is one of the main sources of a teacher's success. This has made itself apparent here in his readiness to do any amount of work in providing

thorough and varied courses of instruction, in the interest which he has been able to excite in his students, and in the success which he has already enabled them to obtain. The general interest he has excited is shown by the fact, reported to the Senate a few weeks ago, that the department of the Library most used by students was that of Philosophy. The success attending his instruction is shown not only by the results of our own examinations, but also by the fact that, though he has been with us but three years, one of his students is now an Instructor in Philosophy at Cornell University; two (including the first mentioned) have held Graduate Fellowships in Philosophy at that University;* a third has been awarded a Bursary at Harvard, to enable him to continue his philosophical studies there; and a fourth has just been appointed to a Scholarship in Psychology at Clark University.

As Secretary of the Faculty of Arts, I can bear witness to the "sweet reasonableness" which characterizes Prof. Seth's relations to his colleagues, and to the energy, urbanity and wisdom with which he assists in the discussion of improvements in courses of study and college regulations generally.

I do not hesitate, therefore, to express the opinion that if Prof. Seth is appointed to the Chair of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Toronto, the University will find in him a worthy successor of the Professor whose lamented death has caused the present vacancy.

J. G. MACGREGOR.

* These students received part of their philosophical instruction from Professor Schurman.—J. S.